

September 23, 1958

Mr. Thomas J. Anderson
c/o Farm and Ranch
318 Murfreesboro Road
Nashville 10, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On the strong recommendation of both Bob Snowden and A. G. Heinsohn, Jr., who are good friends of yours as they are of myself, I am sending you under separate cover today, by registered first-class mail, return receipt requested, an extremely confidential manuscript. It is intended for your eyes only.

There is no thought of publication of this document, or of anything resembling it, in the foreseeable future. But I am putting it in the hands of a limited number of good friends and outstanding patriots, who can be depended on to treat it with the confidence requested, and to use reasonable precaution to safeguard the manuscript while it is in their possession. And I do believe it will give even so well informed a man as yourself a certain amount of additional insight into some aspects of the conspiracy which we face.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Robert Welch

RW:eml

R. B. SNOWDEN
COTTON EXCHANGE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

September 24, 1958

Mr. Tom Anderson
Farm & Ranch Magazine
Nashville, Tennessee

PRIVATE
and
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Tom,

You will receive from Bob Welch, a friend of mine in Belmont, Massachusetts, a copy of a very, very confidential manuscript entitled "The Politician". A. G. Heinsohn and I decided that you should read it, not with any idea that one word of it shall be published, and not with any idea that you should in any way divulge its contents to anyone. It's only for your eyes.

Heinie and I know that we can depend on you for absolute secrecy in this regard, and protection of the author and the contents.

Let me say that it is not pleasant reading.

The author has no intention of publishing this manuscript, but I would be very much pleased if you would phone me when you have finished it and let me know what you think of it.

Bob Welch, as you probably recognize, is the publisher of American Opinion which is a monthly, going to about four to five thousand people a month. Much of what he publishes could be helpful to you, I believe. If on occasion you can multiply through your magazine some of his productions, it would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,



R. B. Snowden

rbs/h
Copy to Mr. Welch

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence

ANFKB-SD

11 Feb 59
Mr. L. L. Laughlin
Special Agent in Charge
P.O. Box 2344
Boston 7, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

Attached hereto is a book written by Mr. E. W. Walsh, Jr., of the Robert A. Walsh Candy Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The book was received in Security Division, G2 Section, Headquarters, First United States Army, from the 100th CIE Group under the circumstances described in the accompanying Summary of Information.

Since the book is an attack on the reputation of the President of the United States and was written by a civilian, it is believed to be a matter of your interest under the Delimitations Agreement.

Should you desire any additional information which we can supply, please write to me directly.

Sincerely,

1 Incl
Summary of Information,
dtd 14 Jan 59

W. W. Glenn
WED W. GLENN
Lt Colonel, GS
Acting Chief, Security Division

Regraded UNCLASSIFIED when separated
from Classified inclosures

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

62-104401-8

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

(SR 388-370-10)

DATE

14 Jan 59

PREPARING OFFICE

108th CIC Gp, PO Box 56, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York

SUBJECT

Circumstances Surrounding US Army
Accession to "The Politician"

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D
UNRELIABLE E
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F

OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . 1
PROBABLY TRUE 2
POSSIBLY TRUE 3
DOUBTFULLY TRUE 4
IMPROBABLE 5
TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED . . 6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Master Specialist Helen G. Morrissey, WA 115766, first came to the attention of the 108th CIC Group when she complained that her reenlistment in the WAC was being blocked as the result of her report of security irregularities alleged to have occurred in G3, Department of the Army, when she was employed there.

Apparently, there was some effort to block her reenlistment, but the matter was satisfactorily settled with the result that she was reenlisted in the WAC. Specialist Morrissey was very grateful to the 108th CIC Group for the part they played in obtaining her reenlistment.

As the result of her gratitude toward the 108th CIC Group and because of her previous contact with them, Specialist Morrissey submitted a copy of "The Politician" written by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Robert A. Welch Candy Co., Cambridge, Mass., which she obtained from the author for the 108th CIC Group.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., (the author of "The Politician"), is the son of Robert A. Welch, owner of the Welch Candy Co., Cambridge, Mass.

Robert H. W. Welch is reputed to be a right-wing Republican who has written for the conservative portion of the Republican Party. His writings, prior to "The Politician" have not been subversive, though extremely anti-communist and anti-Democratic Administration.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., attended University of North Carolina, United States Naval Academy and Harvard Law School. He placed second in the race for nomination for Lt Governor of Massachusetts on the Republican Party Ticket in 1950.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., is variously listed as Vice President and as President of the Robert A. Welch Candy Co., founded by Robert A. Welch, his father.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., has written the following:

The Life of John Birch - 1954 (Published by Henry Regnery Co., Chicago. Library of Congress Cat Card # 54-12105).

May God Forgive Us - 1952

and is the publisher of American Opinion.

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., has the reputation in Massachusetts as an out-spoken anti-Communist. His work "May God Forgive Us" is strongly critical of the

DISTRIBUTION

1 copy - Boston FBI =

DA FORM 568 (Formerly DA AGO)

REPLACES WD AGO FORM 568, 1 JUN 47, WHICH MAY BE USED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953-O-347710

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

(SF 340-320-10)

DATE

14 Jan 59

PREPARING OFFICE

105th SIG Gr. Ft. Ben G., Ocean Station, New York 3, New York

SUBJECT

Circumstances Surrounding the Army
Accession to "The Politician"
(Continued)

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D
UNRELIABLE E
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F

OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCE
PROBABLY TRUE
POSSIBLY TRUE
DOUBTFULLY TRUE
IMPROBABLE
TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

~~of~~ pro-communist post-World War II China Policy of the US Government.

Specialist Helen G. Morrissey first became acquainted with Robert Welch Jr. during the middle of 1957 when she requested a copy of his book "May God Forgive Us Since that time she has had sporadic social contact with Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., and has corresponded with him about once a month, during which time she sent him various newspaper items. During the period of contact and correspondence, Specialist Morrissey was a civilian, having been denied reenlistment in the Army which she felt was persecution for her reporting of security violations she had observed in Department of Army G3. Welch apparently felt that Specialist Morrissey would therefore be receptive to his privately printed and distributed book "The Politician" (EXHIBIT 1). On 31 August 1958, he sent her copy number 31 of this work.

In October 1958, Specialist Morrissey having reenlisted in the Army, felt it her duty to return her copy of "The Politician" to Mr. Welch. She returned it by registered mail. (Registered Mail Receipt is appended at EXHIBIT 2).

In order to obtain a copy for study, the 105th SIG Group arranged for Specialist Morrissey to ask Mr. Welch to send a copy of "The Politician" to a Mr. Thomas Farrell of 115 Bottom Ave. Brooklyn 9, New York.

Mr. Welch sent a letter (EXHIBIT 3) to Mr. Thomas Farrell asking him to send "The Politician" to "Farrell" at the request of Specialist Morrissey and stating that it was not a book for general distribution. Copy number 54 of "The Politician" was also received at the 105th SIG Group.

Specialist Morrissey furnished a handwritten list of her own compilation of persons she thought might have been recipients of additional copies of "The Politician". The accuracy of this list has not been determined, and the list is appended as EXHIBIT 4.

"The Politician" is an attack on President Eisenhower and an allegation, in considerable detail that he has consistently aided the cause of Russia and International Communism, and that the President's policies, as well as those of the previous two Presidents and the actions of over fifty highly placed persons in the last three administrations, have enabled Russia, Communist China and International Communism to rise from a position of weakness to a position of superiority to the United States.

Chapter Nine of "The Politician" is particularly violent in its denunciation of President Eisenhower.

DISTRIBUTION

DA FORM 568 (Formerly DA AGO)

REPLACES WD AGO FORM 588, 1 JUN 47, WHICH MAY BE USED

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950-O-347716

CONFIDENTIAL

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

(SR 380-320-10)

DATE

11 Jan 59

PREPARING OFFICE

105th GSC Gr, PO Box 56, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York

SUBJECT

Circumstances Surround US Army
Accession to "The Politician"

(Continued)

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D
UNRELIABLE E
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F

OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCE
PROBABLY TRUE
POSSIBLY TRUE
DOUBTFULLY TRUE
IMPROBABLE
TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

EXHIBIT 1, appended copy of "The Politician," has passages attacking President Eisenhower marked by paper clips, and Chapter Nine is red-tabbed.

Master Specialist Morrissey was assigned to Europe (specific organization unknown) after her reenlistment in the Army in 1958, and, as far as is known, is still there.

As an evaluation of the motives of Robert W. P. Welch, Jr., in writing "The Politician" and distributing it, it is felt that he is a Republican of the extreme Right-Wing of the party who has become progressively more and more disillusioned by the post-World War II soft attitude of the United States toward International Communism and who has been frustrated by the preponderance of Moderate Republicans in the present Administration. His feeling that President Eisenhower has deviated to the Left has now apparently grown to the point where he accuses the President of actively furthering Communism and its aims.

An attack such as this one on the Chief Executive of the United States of America can only favor those elements of society who oppose the democratic processes by which we elect Presidents, and, as such, aids the cause of International Communism which the author claims to abhor.

The author must be considered to have become unbalanced on his subject or to be consciously aiding the enemies of the Republic. In view of his previous writings and background, it must be concluded that his hate for Communism has obscured his judgement and that he has written an unbalanced book.

DISTRIBUTION

DA FORM 568 (Formerly DA AGO)

REPLACES WD AGO FORM 568, 1 JUN 47, WHICH MAY BE USED.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953-O-247716

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78. Massachusetts

February 25, 1959

100 2 105

Mr. J. W. Clise
J. W. Clise & Company
2107 North 34th Street
Seattle 3, Washington

Dear Mr. Clise:

Many thanks for sending me copy of your letter to our friend, B. E. Hutchinson.

With regard to the friends of your own whom you would like to have read the manuscript of THE POLITICIAN, and who can be depended on, you believe, to treat it with the confidence requested, there is a special procedure which we prefer to follow.

If you will give us the names and addresses of these friends, we shall mail each of them a copy of the manuscript directly from here, but with a covering letter stating that this is done at your request. This arrangement not only gives each one sufficient time to read and digest the material, without feeling hurried to return the copy to you; but it stresses the confidential nature of the manuscript far more than allowing it to be passed from hand to hand.

Our rather extreme precautions with regard to this document are not due to any worry on my part as to what might happen to myself. My neck is already stuck out so far that another few inches or few feet would make little difference. But many of my best informed friends feel that having the manuscript get into the wrong hands at the present time might do far more damage than good to the whole anti-Communist cause; whereas, by distributing it very carefully and quietly to quite a limited number of strongly patriotic leaders, so that the information in this document becomes a background to their own thinking on which their own actions are determined, it can do considerable good. So we do ask you to be quite careful in the selection of friends to whom you want the document to go; but then shall undoubtedly^{be} willing to be guided by your judgment, on receiving the list.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robert Welch

RW:mlp

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78. Massachusetts

October 12, 1959

Mr. J. W. Clise
13644 Main Street
Bellevue, Washington

Dear Jim:

Please pardon the delay in this reply to your very kind letters of October 1 and October 2. There is no letup in the urgency or the quantity of the pressures on my time.

Because of these pressures, and too many specific commitments, I do not dare schedule any of my two-day top-level meetings, for consecutive week-ends in New York and Chicago, as I had been doing, during the next couple of months. Things are simply moving too fast for me on every front. And yet I certainly need the active and early support of such men as those you list in your letters.

Under the circumstances, therefore, it seems to me that it might be best for me to send each of them a copy of the Blue Book of The John Birch Society. The presentation when read in print is not nearly as effective as when delivered orally, but it does tell the story of what we are trying to do, and how, and why. So let me make a suggestion, for your approval or disapproval.

Fred Clark has been to one of my meetings, and intends to get a chapter of The John Birch Society started, with a friend of his as Chapter Leader. ✓ Charles Edison has been a good friend of mine for a long time, and has tried to come to two of my meetings, but his doctor absolutely refused to let him sit through two days of listening, because his hearing trouble has become so bad now that the strain would actually make him sick otherwise. So I am sending him a copy of the Blue Book anyway, if it has not already gone out, as the only way he will ever have a chance to learn the story. ✓ Dr. Magnus I. Gregersen is a good friend of mine, even though by mail, who has read THE POLITICIAN, and to whom the Blue Book either already has gone or will be going in the next day or two. And there are one or two others on your list whom we can skip, for one reason or another. But how would you feel about writing a personal note to each of the others, saying that the Blue Book is being sent at your suggestion, and urging the recipient to give it careful attention? This would certainly be a help, is about the best I can do to reach such good prospective supporters right away and effectively, and would be much appreciated. If you think well of the idea, the people to whom you should write are:

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Padelford
Admiral and Mrs. Milo Dracund

Mr. J. W. Clise

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October 12, 1959

Mr. Joe Hilley
- Mr. Larry Venard
Mr. O. D. Colvin
Rev. Alexander St. Ivanyi
Mr. and Mrs. John W. McCullis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goff
- Mr. Henry Hazlett
Dean Benjamin Rogge
Dr. George E. Zeigler
- Professor Milton Freidman
- Mr. Philip McKenna
Mr. Henry W. Collins

Also, since your handwriting is not a lot better than my own, and in order to make sure that we have complete addresses as well as read them correctly -- and home addresses, wherever you think they are preferable, as they would be in most cases -- I wonder if you would be willing to have your secretary (if she is now out of the hospital) or somebody either type or write carefully the proper address after each name. Then we'll mail a Blue Book to each person on the list, at the address there given, as soon as we receive it back from you.

See P.S.
Incidentally, since you might wonder why I left the name of Jim Rogers off the list above, I might as well explain. During my whole seven years on the NAM board of directors, three of them on the executive committee, the only single man with whom I never hit it off too well was Bob Gaylord. He and I are good enough friends, but I have still preferred not to send him a copy of THE POLITICIAN, nor even to invite him to any of my two-day meetings until The John Birch Society had gathered more strength. Knowing how hard Bob tries to find something to be cantankerous about, I think that in this case he would probably decide that The John Birch Society was intended to undercut and be a rival of the NAM -- even though nothing could be further from the truth. So I want to wait a while longer before informing Bob Gaylord of our activities. And under these conditions I think it might be a mistake, therefore, for me to send the Blue Book to his assistant, Jim Rogers, as good a man as Jim is, before Bob Gaylord himself has ever heard any of the story. And, although I'll not go into details, there is

Mr. J. W. Clise

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October 12, 1959

an exactly reverse reason why I had rather wait a while longer before sending the Blue Book to Leonard Read, although he has been a very good friend of mine for years, and I once even arranged for him and Aggie to be guests of the NAM at one of our Hot Springs meetings of the Board of Directors.

Going on to some other matters, you asked about Tom O'Reilly of Bellevue. I know little more about him than you do. He sent in a contribution to the COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS, and such a nice letter, which seemed to be so sincere and also to show such a clear understanding of what was happening and determination to do something about it, that I simply invited him to the meeting in Seattle. From what he told me there, he had been quite a successful manufacturer's agent, representing five different firms, when the rising leftist flood got him so alarmed and disturbed as to cause him to enter politics aggressively -- running for Congress, I believe -- against some left-winger in his area. The two results were that he lost the election, and all five of his principles took their lines away from him. So he had to start over, but now has several good lines again, and is doing all right. He is, as you noted, a Roman Catholic, and a well-enough informed one to have been quite familiar with some of the points which came up in our discussion. I liked what I saw of him, and what he had to say in my brief private conversations with him, very much indeed.

I hope you can bring Frank Holman, Jay Morrison, and Stuart Thompson around to feeling that it is not my fault that things are as bad as I had to show them in THE POLITICIAN. ✓ And I do defy any of them to find any errors of fact in the manuscript, other than the very minor one I mentioned, that Edgar Bundy was seven years with Air Force Intelligence instead of with the FBI.

X
Actually (confidentially, since I do not ordinarily tell anybody, even by implication, anybody else who has read this manuscript) there is strong disagreement between Al Wedemeyer and myself over there having been any sinister planning behind the proposed Operation Sledgehammer. But this is merely a difference of opinion, which has little to do with the facts and while General Wedemeyer's feelings are quite understandable, in view of several circumstances involved, most of the retired generals

Mr. J. W. Clise

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October 12, 1959

and admirals with whom I have discussed the matter agree one hundred percent with my interpretation. And while I would not want any names mentioned, I can state honestly, and am willing to be quoted to Jay Morrison or the others as so stating, that this manuscript has been carefully and at first skeptically read by quite a number of very well-informed and very influential leaders in American public life, including a number of retired generals and admirals; that nobody has been able to find any mistakes in it; that at least ninety-five percent of those who have read the document agree with one of its alternate conclusions at the end; and that in a great many cases the reaction, instead of disagreement, has been one of wanting to supply me more material, out of the reader's own personal knowledge, to document and support my thesis.

No, to the best of my recollection, I have not been familiar with the names of either Norton Clapp or Reno Adlin, so they were neither invited, nor have they read THE POLITICIAN. Mr. William S. Street was invited, but I do not know now why he could not come; nor do I know anything about him, or how he got on my list. So I shall be glad to follow up these three in any way that you suggest. Among others from the area who were invited but couldn't come were Mr. Eli Dorsey, of Dorsey and Haight, Seattle, and Mr. John W. Blodgett, whom I am sure you know. Also, my good friend, Jim Bronson, of Yakima, who wanted to come, but had a conflict with a meeting of a lumber association, of which he is president, at exactly that time. There were a few others, but I'll not dig out their names to burden you with them at this writing. With regard to Ernie Swigert, of Portland, he has been a close personal friend of mine for many years, was one of the original founders of The John Birch Society at Indianapolis in December, 1958, and is still one of my strongest supporters and best friends.

The list of those whom you intended to invite to hear the tapes at the meeting arranged by Cap Beezley seems quite impressive. The only one I recognize offhand is Alfred Schweppe, who was invited to the Seattle meeting, although I don't know now why he could not come, and who has read THE POLITICIAN. Of course I hope very much that most of those on your list were able to come, and that the meeting was quite successful.

Mr. J. W. Clise

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October 12, 1959

Now, as to the address we are using. The new building we are in is practically next door to the Belmont post office, which is a comparatively small one in an almost completely residential town. Everybody in our little group is well-known to all of the clerks at the post office, and they are all well-known to us. And we are using this address actually, without a street number, at the specific request of the postmaster, who is also a good friend of ours. The point is that we pick up our mail, which is too heavy and voluminous for any of the boxes, twice a day at the post office window. And if a street address shows on any of the envelopes for us, some new clerk is always likely to put that mail in the pile to be picked up by one of the carriers, which then means a delay of several hours in our receiving it. So we try to discourage having the street number put on our mail all we can, with the result that it goes automatically to the front of the post office, and into the frame section which has been allotted to us there, until we pick it up. And under these circumstances, I do not believe there is any danger of anything happening to our mail along the lines you suggest -- or at least no more danger than if we were urging everybody to use a street address. But we'll keep the thought carefully in mind, nevertheless.

And this certainly being enough for one letter, I'll sign off without formality.

Good luck, and kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Bob

RW:mlp

Robert Welch

P.S. Since this letter was dictated my wife has shown me, from careful list we keep, that I did "break down" and send Bob Gaylord a copy of The Politician a few months ago after all. But I have never heard a word from him about it, have not invited him to one of my meetings or sent him the Blue Book as yet, and would still wonder, therefore, about the advisability of sending the Blue Book to Tim Rogers at the present time. But I'll certainly do so if you urge it. R.W.

November 20, 1959

Mr. David Roemer
4019 Overbrook
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Roemer:

Tom Hill says you have asked for a letter from me concerning some of the questions about religion that have arisen at meetings in Texas. The pressure on my time is so great that two nights out of the last seven I have not even gone home from the office. So I cannot begin to spend the time in careful meditation, and then write the detailed reply which your inquiry deserves. But I'll do the best I can in a hurried and succinct answer.

1. I have tried all of my life, in my weak and human way, to be a good Christian. But I am not a fundamentalist. As much as I would like to do so, I simply cannot subscribe to some of the dogma and doctrinal beliefs of the fundamentalists. My book, The Life Of John Birch, was written in honor of, and deepest admiration for, a man whose great nobility of character was determined by his fundamentalist beliefs. And the most devout Catholics and fundamentalist protestants will find no more ardent supporter of the sacredness of their beliefs than myself.
2. I do not intend nor attempt to be a leader in matters of doctrinal religion. I do not ask anybody to follow, nor even to accept, my specific religious views. I have friends who say to me that Christianity must be saved in order to save freedom. I am glad to have them work on the problem and the evils of our times from that point of view. But my own approach is that freedom must be saved in order to save Christianity. It seems to me that my goal includes theirs, and is one which they should support with all of their hearts -- as most of them do. For I welcome the support of all men and women of good character, humane consciences, and religious ideals, whether or not their doctrinal beliefs -- or even their basic religions -- coincide with my own.
3. My concern is with morality and purpose, based on those eternal truths on which we can all agree. In my presentation

November 20, 1959

for The John Birch Society I have tried to draw a circle of religious faith large enough to take in, without violation, all of those specific faiths which are built on eternal truths. Within that circle I have not tried to pin down or define the exact boundary lines of my own doctrinal faith, for three reasons. One is, frankly, that I'm not sure I could, without giving over my life to mere meditation, at the present time. The second is that, if I did, nobody on either side of those lines would agree with me -- any more than bedrock Baptists agree with more "liberal" Episcopalians, or such Episcopalians agree with more "traditional" Catholics, or such Catholics agree with more "rational" Universalists today. And the third reason is that it is nobody else's business what my exact shades of religious belief may be, so long as I am giving my life to preserving his right to believe exactly what he wishes, to worship according to that belief, and even to convert me to that belief in time if he can -- as I certainly am doing.

4. I am fully aware that even a slight modification of my non-conformity, a tiny pretense to more fundamentalism in the Christianity which I follow, would be of immense help in eliminating roadblocks to the growth of The John Birch Society in some areas of our country today. But I am not willing to make the slightest concession in that direction, any more than I ask the most devout Catholic or fundamentalist Protestant to give up any iota of his fundamentalist faith in order to work with me in our common cause. For to make any such concession or pretense would be a deviation from the truth. And to me, stating the truth, as each man actually sees and believes it, with regard to any minute set of circumstances or any understanding of the phenomena and noumena of the whole universe, is the very essence of morality, and the foundation stone of any civilization in which sincere religion can even exist. We can all disagree with one another, in peace and a humane society and an age of increasing knowledge -- and can all grope together towards more understanding of ultimate truth for mankind -- if we use only the truth as we do see it in communicating with one another. But without it a whole civilization falls to pieces, as ours is now doing, because of the moral rot and purposeless confusion created by infinite lies.

I would like a world, Mr. Roemer, in which John Birch, whom I never knew, or Cardinal Cushing, whom I do, would have every opportunity to convert -- by persuasion -- other men to the noble faiths in which they have believed so sincerely. To preserve that world much longer, or to have it prevail again over so much of the earth where a religion-based civilization has already been wiped out, we must overcome an amoral atheistic movement which seeks to destroy not only all religious belief, and all morality, but the very conscience of man. And we must do more

Mr. David Roemer

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November 20, 1959

than merely defend ourselves from the further encroachments of this Godless tyranny. We must start freeing men from the shackles already imposed everywhere by increasingly oppressive government; returning to men a sense of responsibility for their own lives; and inspiring men to work and sacrifice in the building of a truly better world. We badly need for all good men like yourself to come in and help us. The best I can promise you in return is that I shall be uncompromising in fighting the forces of evil, and true to those principles on which I have taken my stand -- and in support of which I am asking others to follow my leadership.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

RW:rc

Robert Welch

P. S. And may I add a final comment:

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

As you may be aware, from either hearing tape recordings or reading the Blue Book of The John Birch Society, I often repeat that last stanza of the Battle-Hymn Of The Republic. This is because I love it, and believe it -- every line and word. Otherwise I would not quote it, in the context that I do. RW

December 28, 1959

Mr. Thos. J. Anderson
Editor & Publisher
FARM AND RANCH
318 Murfreesboro Road
Nashville 10, Tennessee

Dear Tom:

In further reply to your letter of December 17, let me repeat my expression of pride and pleasure on your becoming a member of the COUNCIL of The John Birch Society. In view of your reluctance to become officially associated with any other group, I am especially grateful.

We shall write your brother, Mr. Charles Anderson, President of the National Old Line Insurance Company in Little Rock, and send him the Blue Book and some of our other material, at once. Glenn Green, Executive Vice President of the National Education Program in Searcy, Arkansas, has become so enthusiastic over the methods and purposes of The John Birch Society that he offered about a month ago to become a Volunteer Coordinator for us for the state of Arkansas, has already formed one chapter and has several others in process. And Mr. Green has a complete set of the tape recordings of my presentation. So it may be that, if we can get your brother sufficiently interested, Mr. Green can be of considerable help to him in connection with the organizing of a chapter in Little Rock. And we'll follow this up to the best of our ability.

Your attitude toward a third party is very much the same as my own, so far as any present prospects are concerned; that its most useful accomplishment is likely to be scaring one or both of the two major parties into a little less pronounced and rapid movement toward the extreme left. And as to your own position, I also thoroughly agree that you are likely to be able to do more good, both for the nation and for FARM AND RANCH, by not identifying yourself too closely with any political party. I shall be explaining the position of The John Birch Society with regard to this same question, which position is very similar to your own, in some detail at the Chicago meeting. And of course I shall be hoping

Mr. Thos. J. Anderson

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December 28, 1959

very much that you can be there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob".

RW:mlp

Robert Welch

file 1/9/60
Chicago Union
Japan Club
code 01/60

A Confidential Report
To Members Of The COUNCIL
of
The John Birch Society

The first meeting of the COUNCIL was held at the Union League Club, Chicago, on Saturday, January 9, 1960. Present were Messrs. Adamson, Anderson, Beatty, Davis, Draskovich, Grede, Heinsohn, Koch, Kohlberg, Oliver, Manion, McMillan, Stoddard, and Swigert. Coleman Andrews was held back from attendance, at the last minute, by illness. Cola Parker was also kept away by his doctors and Louis Ruthenburg's plane was grounded on his way to the meeting. Others who were absent gave sound reasons and sincere regrets. And we had, I believe, a most successful meeting.

The writer, presiding, opened the session with a most earnest expression of thanks to those in attendance, both for coming on the COUNCIL, and for making the considerable sacrifice to be present. He then introduced each member to the others who were there.

The writer then reviewed briefly the more recent developments, since LOOK AT THE SCORE was written, in the advance of the international Communist conspiracy towards world rule. Since we are still losing the Cold War, now more rapidly and visibly than in the past, the report was not optimistic.

To show, by just one illustration from which the whole pattern could be projected, how subtly and disingenuously, but determinedly and effectively, our government is helping to strengthen the Communists and weaken their enemies, everywhere in the world, we went in considerable detail into the background, significance, and effect of the last-minute betrayal of the French Government by our Government in the United Nations General Assembly vote on the Algerian question on December 12. Since considerable interest was expressed in that exposition, and it is too long to repeat here, may we please call the attention of all members of the COUNCIL, who are interested, to the fact that this same analysis will appear, verbatim, in the February issue of American Opinion, which will be going into the mails in about one week.

At the end of an hour's condensed survey of the whole international picture, the writer summarized the outlook, as it appears to him, in the following statement.

"From a careful and realistic study of the mountainous pile of evidence that is there for all to see, certain terrifying conclusions are objectively inescapable. Among them are:

(1) The Communists are winning their large victories, as they always have, through the cumulative effect of small gains;

(2) They make these gains chiefly through the conniving assistance of many of the very diplomats and officials who are supposed to be opposing them;

(3) Communist influences are now in almost complete working control of our government;

(4) And hence the United States Government is today, as it has been for many years, the most important and powerful single force promoting the world-wide Communist advance.

"Unless we believe these plain truths, gentlemen, we are in my opinion, simply wasting our time. For we shall neither know where to look for the enemy, nor recognize the desperate seriousness of our danger.

"And there are other features of this enemy's advance, besides those I have discussed, which make our danger even worse. For we are not fighting an ideology, but a conspiracy. And that conspiracy is already so firmly entrenched here at home that our internal situation is far more critical than our position in international affairs.

"Some of you may remember, from one of our two day meetings or from reading the Blue Book, the brief outline of the third and most likely method the Communists would use in taking us over. This was to be by a process so gradual and insidious that Soviet rule would be slipped over on us so far, before we ever knew it was happening, that the Communist conspirators would be in charge of our government, and we would find ourselves in the position of conspirators against established authority. I first began in speeches, about three years ago, to point out that this was happening with a constantly more rapid tempo. By the time I incorporated that warning in my presentation to the founders of The John Birch Society, in the original meeting at Indianapolis in December, 1958, the process was already far advanced, and both its speed and its momentum were still increasing. Today, gentlemen, I can assure you, without the slightest doubt in my own mind, that the take-over at the top is, for all practical purposes, virtually complete. Whether you like it or not, and whether you believe it or not, our Federal Government is already, literally, in the hands of the Communists. And the only reason that is not clear to gentlemen like yourselves, if it is not, is simply your reluctance to believe it, your wishful thinking, and hence your unwillingness to appraise, coldly and logically, what you see with your own eyes. For the evidence is all there, plain as day, and much of it you are living with, in connection with your own careers or business or actions, every day of your lives."

II

The writer next reviewed the history, activities, and progress of The John Birch Society, in the year since it was founded on December 9, 1958, in Indianapolis.

Taking time to feel our way carefully, and to find out whether the whole organizational idea was sound, we did not begin actually forming chapters until late in February, 1959. By June we still had only about twenty chapters, and we deliberately dragged our feet during the summer months, while building up reserves and getting ready for a first real step of expansion in the fall.

Then came the announcement of the Khrushchev visit, and the concentration of our efforts on the protest against that visit through the Committee Against Summit Entanglements. The tremendous amount of work involved in that protest so tied up the writer and our whole small office for two months -- even preventing us from making the film version of the John Birch Society presentation, which was to have been ready by October 1, until so late that we do not yet have the films themselves -- that our growth was probably set back the equivalent of four months. And yet we feel that what was accomplished by that protest, even though we did not stop Khrushchev from coming, was well worth while.

The writer reported that despite this and other setbacks, and despite many mistakes undoubtedly made, as of the day of the meeting we now had: (1) Something over three hundred individual members of the Home Chapter, most of whom are influential conservatives scattered over some forty states; (2) eighty-two working chapters, with from one to twelve chapters each in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Iowa, California, and Washington; (3) five full-time salaried staff Coordinators, one each in New England, Michigan, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, and California, with additional men soon to be put on in Illinois and Oregon; (4) six Volunteer Coordinators, devoting a major part of their time to our work, but whom we pay for their expenses only, in South Carolina, Florida, Arkansas, Texas (two), and the state of Washington, with one probably soon to be added in California; (5) eighteen sets of tape recordings of the presentation, now being used in the field by our Coordinators and by a few of our most enthusiastic Chapter Leaders; (6) the Blue Books, which give the presentation in printed form, and of which four thousand had been distributed at that time; (7) the shorter version of the film presentation (two and one-half hours) actually produced, with the films to be delivered as soon as they can be developed, edited, and prints made; (8) a very solid base of experience and enthusiasm on which to grow from this point;

(9) enough money on hand to be comfortable, and enough expectable income from dues, contributions, and sale of the Blue Book to go along quite comfortably at our present level, with small and moderate growth -- but not enough to make safe any positive step of sizable expansion or organization-building which we might wish to undertake; and (10) the strong encouragement of growing numbers of conservative Americanists, who emphatically express their convictions that the John Birch Society offers the one best -- and maybe only -- plan and program that can keep the Communists from taking us over.

I believe it is fair and correct to say that the members of the COUNCIL present felt that we had made satisfactory progress in growth, development, and the establishment of a solid base for the future, during the first year.

III

But we must be working even while we grow, and the writer next reported on the campaigns and activities we had undertaken during that same first year, with particular reference to the ten parts of the action program projected at the founding meeting in Indianapolis. Each one of the ten points was taken up and discussed in some detail. But since this survey took about two hours, since those who read the Society's monthly bulletins regularly are familiar with our efforts, since any condensation of so many details is so difficult, and since the writer is already so crowded for time, we are not going to attempt here any review of that review.

It was emphasized that most of our undertakings had been carefully tailored to match the size of our organization, so that we had entered on activities where we had a reasonable chance of achieving some effectiveness, instead of simply butting our collective heads against some wall that was too big and too solid for us to budge. It seemed clear, and your Founder so reported, that in several of the ten areas of action we have done very little as yet; but that in others, in some specific campaigns or efforts, we have -- even while still quite small -- definitely accomplished or materially helped to accomplish some results that were very much worth while.

Again the writer believes it is fair and accurate to say that the COUNCIL felt we had made satisfactory progress from this point of view during our first year, and further felt we had shown that much more farreaching accomplishments could be counted on when we gained more size and strength.

IV

There followed some three hours of open discussion. The range was wide, and a meaningful condensation would be too difficult for me to undertake. Fully one hour of that time was given over to an insistence, on the part of various members individually and of the COUNCIL unanimously as a whole, that your Founder take a vacation or a rest; and to consideration of ways and means whereby he could arrange to do so.

The writer has always claimed, and honestly felt, that he knew pretty well his own limitations and his own breaking point, so far as work was concerned. For the first time in his life, and probably much to the surprise of most of those present, he agreed with the suggestion. For it is undeniable, even to myself -- if you will forgive the first-person pronoun here, for the sake of simplicity -- that I have been working too hard, too continuously, with too little rest, for too long a stretch of time. (About eighteen months, seven days and nights per week, without any slightest let-up even for an hour.) The advice to take a rest was accepted, and will be followed sometime fairly soon. But there are problems -- which many members of the COUNCIL are magnanimously and magnificently helping to overcome -- and there is no such thing as stepping out immediately from under all of the work and urgent demands on my time that are piled up right now. The vacation -- at least a short one -- will come just as soon as plans can be completed to keep those problems and demands from getting worse during my absence. And with the assistance, of which I have been assured, to count on, they will be completed within a reasonable time.

V

At the end of this discussion, or at least near the end of the day, the writer asked for about fifteen minutes to make some closing remarks. There have been so many requests, from those who were present, for a copy of those remarks, that it seems to be the easiest course simply to incorporate them verbatim in this report. But before doing so, it seems desirable to go back and quote, also verbatim, three short paragraphs from my opening remarks in the morning. Here they are:

"Naturally, in this COUNCIL, composed of men of this caliber, dedicated to so worthy and important a purpose, I shall take the confidential nature of all that is said for granted. And consequently I shall speak, and hope we can all feel free to speak, with the utmost frankness about any person,

event, or topic that comes into our discussion.

"At this point, too, let me concede that I shall be saying many things today that I cannot strictly prove. But, gentlemen, we are not playing a game, where there are rules and protocol that a gentleman must abide by. We are facing a deadly enemy, who has vowed to destroy us, and we are trying to determine what he is doing and how he is doing it, as closely as we can,

"When I insisted emphatically in print in 1951 that the break between Stalin and Tito was phoney as a three-dollar bill, I couldn't prove it. But it was clearly true and proved itself to anybody who simply looked objectively at the picture. Much of what I shall be saying at a couple of points in today's session belongs in that category. But I shall be saying nothing that I do not honestly believe, as a result of a lot of study and experience in analyzing Communist methods, purposes, and personnel. And there are sound reasons why I shall speak with considerable positiveness and force. 'For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?' "

With that much of a caveat, both as to the confidential nature, and also as to the undocumented and informal directness, of these closing remarks, I am glad to make them also the closing remarks of this report. They follow herewith and -- because of their length -- without being enclosed in quotation marks.

VI

Gentlemen, we have just had a speech by President Eisenhower telling the nation how wonderful everything is, and is going to be throughout 1960. And the fact that that speech was false in many particulars is relatively unimportant against the far greater and fundamental falsity of the speech's whole theme and purpose. It completely and deliberately ignored the matters that are really vital to the American people at this point of extreme danger in their national existence. It was designed to keep the American people from even looking at all the clear signs of the enemy closing in on us from every side, and at the beginnings of the police state already at work within our own borders. He said that he would devote his last year in the White House to promote peace in the world and prosperity at home. He didn't tell you that the peace he was talking about was a part of the greatest Communist Propaganda drive of all time, to induce a gradual surrender

of the remaining free world to Communist control, or that the prosperity at home he was talking about was merely a deceptive name for ever more rapid inflation designed to ruin our currency, wreck our economy, and steadily increase the control of a centralized bureaucratic power over the lives and actions of us all. Here are just a few of the things that the President did not tell the nation.

1. His recent trip was so helpful to the Communists and fitted so beautifully into their "peace" propaganda offensive, that it was mostly the Communists, in Europe especially, who got out the crowds to welcome him. In Italy the Communist Party actually had huge posters printed and displayed welcoming him.

2. Mr. Nixon, following in the President's footsteps and using the same tactics that the White House has used for years, has just finished blackmailing the steel companies into knuckling under to a left-wing labor boss, on terms that cannot possibly have any other effect than to speed up the very inflation which Mr. Eisenhower says he is trying to prevent.

3. Helping Mr. Nixon to put over this squeeze play on industry, and probably already picked to be his running mate for the presidency was a man who, as a supposedly Republic Secretary of Labor, has done everything possible for years to help the Walter Reuthers and Dave Macdonalds and other left-wing labor bosses increase their power. And he is a man who, if my memory serves me correctly, was run off the WPA staff, even in those ideologically easy-going days of the mid thirties, because of his pro-Communist past connections. If so, it is undoubtedly one of the reasons why Mr. Nixon wants him for a running mate, because in the present political set-up any man simply must have strong Communist support in this country to be elected president.

4. The Communists are already right at our door in Cuba and Venezuela. Our government under Mr. Eisenhower is doing everything it feasibly can to help them, and to undermine their enemies throughout Latin America. Mr. Eisenhower himself has even openly been taking the lead in urging Panamanian control, which definitely means Communist control, over the Panama Canal.

In our two states with the largest population, New York and California, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast, already the two present governors are almost certainly actual Communists. We can't go saying these things outside, gentlemen, but in this room, with the job ahead of us that we have

undertaken, let's not kid ourselves. We need to be starkly realistic, and to face facts. ✓ Our Congress now contains a number of men, like Adam Clayton Powell of New York and Charles Porter of Oregon, who are certainly actual Communists, and plenty more who are sympathetic to Communist purposes for either ideological or opportunistic reasons.) X

In the Senate there are men like Stephen Young of Ohio and Wayne Morse of Oregon, McNamara of Michigan and Clifford Case of New Jersey, and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and John Kennedy of Massachusetts, whom it is utter folly to think of as just liberals. Every one of those men is either an actual Communist or so completely a Communist sympathizer or agent that it makes no practical difference; and two of them you will note are leading candidates for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. And the number of real Americanists left in the Senate, with any guts and firmness to resist Communist pressures, is pitifully small.

[Our Supreme Court, dominated by Earl Warren and Felix Frankfurter and Hugo Black, is so visibly pro-Communist that no argument is even needed. The situation there is so bad that an extremely cheap politician, Tom Clark, actually stands out as the best man on the court. And our federal courts below that level, with their Sobeloffs and Luther Youngdahls as judges, are in many cases just as bad.

Our State Department is loaded with Communists from top to bottom, to the extent that our roll call of ambassadors almost sounds like a list somebody has put together to start a Communist front.

It is estimated, from many reliable sources, that from 70% to 90% of the responsible personnel in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are Communists. Our Central Intelligence Agency under Allen Dulles is nothing more nor less than an agency to promote Communism throughout the world, and is provided untold millions of American taxpayers' money for that purpose, money which it does not have to account for to anybody. Almost all of the other Departments are loaded with Communists and Communist sympathizers. And this generalization most specifically does include our whole Defense Department. Even Lt. General Trudeau has charged that Russia's gains in the weapons field are due more to successful espionage than scientific prowess, and that is putting it very mildly indeed. He goes on to say that, militarily: "I don't believe our situation has ever been so critical, even just after Pearl Harbor." This undoubtedly correct appraisal, ✓

by a still patriotic military man in position to know, is just one other truth of vital importance of which the President told the nation nothing in his message.

5. A man named Povl Bang-Jensen was just murdered by the Communists right in New York City. And whether it was technically suicide or not, it was murder, as we all know. And the Communist influences are so powerful that there isn't a chance in the world of getting even an investigation. What's more, it was well known that Bang-Jensen had been trying for months to turn over some extremely important information about Communist agents and activities in the United Nations to somebody of sufficient responsibility in the American government. So well known that a very patriotic and highly regarded United States Senator had been insistently trying during all of that time to get Henry Cabot Lodge to become Bang-Jensen's confidant and protector, and I have in my files today copy of a letter written by that Senator since Bang-Jensen's death, expressing his disgust and his hope that Lodge suffers adequately from a bad conscience -- which is a forlorn hope, I could assure him. Lodge has never even possessed a conscience, much less a bad one.

It was only a few months ago that a great American, a colored man named Manning Johnson, who had once been a Communist and who knew more about Communist agents and activities among our colored population than any other anti-Communist in our country, was mysteriously struck by an automobile in San Francisco, and died as a result of the so-called accident. I have been told, although of course it will be denied, that there are about twenty similar cases, of anti-Communists meeting with fatal "accidents," on the police blotters of San Francisco -- the home of Harry Bridges and Mayor Christopher -- with no chance of any investigation. The Communists are now, with increasing frequency and brazenness, making use right in this country of the usual Communist techniques. And they are doing so deliberately, not only as a most convenient means of eliminating dangerous enemies like Bang-Jensen and Manning Johnson, but as a means of terrorizing other enemies into silence or withdrawal from the fight. This visible beginning of the police-state operation in the United States is just one more thing that the President didn't mention. And it was of far greater importance than most of the things he did talk about.

And there were plenty of other omissions. But this is not the time to catalogue them. I have tried merely to indicate, by example, the kind of message we would have received from the head of a truly anti-Communist government. And I have spoken quite frankly, gentlemen, because I want to make clear two

things. One, this is no time for "business as usual," or "play as usual," if you are really determined, as I hope you are, to become the core of leadership that is going to save our country. And second, I am not kidding, or going through motions. I really do mean business, every step of the way. I have no intention of going off half cocked, or of plunging into any rash measures, and I want the guidance and advice of you gentlemen to see that I don't. But I also want your help, realistically, on a scale and in proportion to the horror and the imminence of the danger which we face. We are truly the last hope. And by that I mean not only that the United States is the last hope of the world, against the Communist darkness closing over it, but that you gentlemen right in this room, and a few others of the leading members of The John Birch Society, are literally the last hope of America.

That is not just my opinion. We receive letter after letter from people all over the United States, many of them well informed and who have been in this fight for years, who say that The John Birch Society, its basic philosophy, its program, its methods, and its leadership offer the one and only remaining chance of rallying the strength and dedication needed to turn back the enemy. And as I told you in my letters of invitation to go on this COUNCIL, that is a challenging, a sobering, and a frightening responsibility. But it is also a glorious opportunity, which is offered to few men. We most definitely and inescapably stand today right squarely at the center of one of the great crises, and perhaps the greatest crisis, of all human history. Either the whole world goes under, with a long stretch of slavery and brutality and darkness ahead of us, or we turn back the forces of evil before it is too late, and head again towards more freedom and accomplishment and enlightenment and a truly better world. We are called upon, by some Force that put us here at this time and place, to play a most important part -- perhaps the decisive part -- in determining which it shall be.

The history of our race shows that it is not too difficult, in the excitement of battle or with the fervor of a martyr, for a man to die for the cause in which he believes. It is much more difficult, under many conditions, to live, fully and courageously, for that cause. For, as a minor poet has put the thought in some major lines:

"And some men die by shrapnel,
And some go down in flames;
But most men perish inch by inch,
In play at little games."

I am asking you right now, and through the increasingly troubled and dangerous months ahead, to join with me in devoting more and more of all that we are and all that we have to one epic purpose. The most direct and immediately understood part of that purpose is simply to save for our children and their children some semblance of the glorious country and humane civilization which we ourselves inherited.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

P. S. The next meeting of the COUNCIL has been tentatively set for Saturday, April 2, at the Harvard Club in New York City. Unless there is a change in the meantime, for some good reason which does not now appear, a definite confirmation and reminder will be mailed to you by the middle of February. RW

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A Confidential Report
To Members Of The COUNCIL
of
The John Birch Society

The second meeting of the COUNCIL took place on Saturday, April 2, at the Harvard Club of New York, and lasted all day. Sixteen of the twenty-three present members of our COUNCIL were present.

A financial statement for the first year of operation was submitted, and a copy is enclosed herewith. Because our small office has been so crowded with work, this statement was only ready within the last hour before I left the office for New York, and has not been audited. If there are any appreciable corrections after the auditors check the statement, you will be notified.

Your Founder pointed out that the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, which was one of the "fronts" of the Society, also raised independently last year about fifty-eight thousand dollars, which was handled by it directly, and was the beneficiary of about one-half that much more, which was spent for it by various individuals and groups who placed its full-page advertisements directly with local papers. And that friends of ours had already authorized during 1959, and committed themselves to pay for, films costing between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for the use of the Society. So that the total dues, contributions, fees, and other income supplied during 1959 for the Society's current and future efforts was just about two hundred thousand dollars.

In a brief report of progress your Founder was glad to be able to tell the COUNCIL that the Society had just about exactly doubled in size since the first meeting of the COUNCIL on January 9. This was in chapters, which had moved from approximately 75 in number to approximately 150; in members, from approximately 1400 to approximately 2800; and in the daily average of direct income. Such income received during the three months ending March 31, 1960 was approximately \$51,500. This is against a total of \$71,225.80 for the twelve months of 1959. Bank balance at the end of March, 1960 was \$14,804.50; undeposited cash on hand, approximately \$1,500.00; and value of 40 shares of Sunbeam Stock which had been received as a donation, approximately \$2200.00

Your Society now has one full-time salaried Coordinator each in New England, Michigan, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Oregon, and two in California. It has a part-time paid Coordinator in Arkansas-Mississippi. It has Volunteer Coordinators each devoting an important part of his energy and time to the Society, in Wisconsin, Florida, Texas (4), California, and Washington. We have

three-fourths of the country not yet touched, but we are going to start again adding paid full-time Coordinators in entirely new territories just as soon as our bank balance is once more running comfortably over twenty thousand dollars. We now have one Major Coordinator who, although a Volunteer, is devoting full time to the Society, and is in charge of development in the ten Southern states. And we expect to add a paid full-time Major Coordinator soon, to train and supervise Coordinators in other areas.

If we could keep on expanding at the same rate as during the period between the two meetings of the COUNCIL we would have the million truly dedicated members -- which we believe would be sufficient to save our country from the Communists and to start restoring a framework of less government and more responsibility -- by the middle of 1962. Any such huge projection of growth from so tiny a segment of experience is, of course, fanciful. Nor do we believe that it is possible either to obtain the money needed for development, or to build sound organization, that rapidly. But knowing how emphatically time is of the essence in one part of our program -- the battle with the Communists -- we shall do our utmost.

* * *

One reel of our black-and-white film presentation was shown in the early morning, as a sample. The comments were favorable, and I think the members of the COUNCIL who were present believed it to be effective -- as experience in the field had to some extent already demonstrated.

The very first print of our color film arrived from the Washington laboratory during the meeting, and was shown immediately after luncheon. This film, with six minutes of black-and-white introduction by your Founder, then runs thirty-three minutes in color covering a tour of the Allen Bradley plant in Milwaukee, and giving the Allen Bradley "story" as a shining example of what our free-enterprise system can do for Americans of all levels of education, ability, income, and ambition. The introduction makes this film a part of our total presentation, by asking those seeing the film to compare the enormous benefits for all workers provided by this American plant with the known plight of factory workers behind the Iron Curtain, and to see the mode of life which a takeover by the Communists would make utterly impossible.

The COUNCIL felt that the film itself was excellent. Many members, however, expressed or agreed with the view that its theme is too well known and accepted by members, or good prospects for membership, of The John Birch Society, for the film to be as effective as your Founder had hoped, as an introductory or intrinsic part of our total regular presentation. And because its showing would

run the time of that presentation up to about three hours, the COUNCIL recommended that the color film be used largely for separate showings, at regular meetings of our chapters which are already established and functioning.

Your Founder accepted this recommendation and the procedure indicated will largely be followed. And the consideration of the time involved is certainly a valid point in many cases -- though by no means all. But actual experience in the several showings of the film already made this week, since the meeting of the COUNCIL, has revealed that its members may have been making insufficient allowance for the difference between their familiarity with the sociological arguments in favor of free enterprise, and the knowledge of such fundamentals on the part of Americans of the non-management group or of lower economic levels.

For much to our surprise -- after the discussion at the COUNCIL meeting, which convinced your Founder that his own evaluation of the Allen Bradley film, as an important intrinsic part of our John Birch story, had been strained and too hopeful -- all of our audiences have literally "eaten it up." To the ordinary audience of middle-class or lower economic levels this film is a heartening revelation. Instead of being preached at with arguments about economic principles, they see and hear with their own eyes and ears the most convincing proofs of how Americans enjoy and benefit from the results of these sound economic principles at work. And they love it. What is more, we have had several new members come into the Society who stated that they did so on the basis of what this film had shown them about the correctness and wisdom of the general overall purposes of The John Birch Society.

A frequent reaction has been: "I have been hearing lectures, and watching flannel board presentations, and even seeing movies, for years, about what the American free-enterprise system can do and ought to do, and how and why it is superior to any other system. In this film, without any lecturing at all, we saw the system actually doing it. And the film was interesting, and a pleasure, from beginning to end. What's more, it gave you a good feeling about our country and everything we have."

It is true that we have not yet had an opportunity to play this film as simply an introductory part of a three-hour presentation to an audience consisting solely of prospects rather than members. We shall be cautious about doing so, unless and until trial experiences indicate that the procedure will strengthen rather than weaken the total impact of, and favorable reaction to, our total film presentation. And we shall certainly keep carefully in mind the views and recommendations of the COUNCIL, as warning signals not to be lost sight of at any time. But we know that the members of the COUNCIL who were in New York will be delighted to have the

reassuring news that -- so far, anyway -- the usefulness of the Allen Bradley color film, from every point of view, promises to live up to and even exceed our earlier expectations.

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Your Founder reviewed briefly our recent and current activities in the several categories of effort which we have so far undertaken. For while these must be adjusted to our still comparatively small size for any real effectiveness, and while growth and the acquisition of more substantial strength and influence is our most important present objective, we do still have to work while we grow. Since all of these activities are set forth in our regular monthly bulletins, however, we shall not attempt to review here the oral discussion concerning them at the COUNCIL meeting. With regard to efforts in areas where a definite appraisal of results is possible, we have had some successes and some failures. (We still have not been able to get any of the airlines to put HUMAN EVENTS in their reading racks!) And in those areas, usually of larger undertakings, where results are not measurable, our effectiveness has of course, been varied. But we have seen convincing evidence that, in some cases, our influence has been considerable; and we shall do our utmost to have it steadily increase.

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Despite our wish to avoid publicity all we can, there have been items or brief articles about The John Birch Society breaking out in the press recently in various papers all over the country -- and elsewhere. So far all that we have seen have been favorable. The most striking incident of this kind has been the use by the Paris newspaper, L'Intransigeant, of some half a page to tell their readers about our exposure of the erroneous and slanted article in Newsweek on the French Red Hand. But we know that as soon as the major media of communications in America learn enough about us and our activities, their treatment of The John Birch Society will -- in all but a very few cases anyway -- be anything but favorable. So, for this and many other reasons, we should like to have the help of our COUNCIL members in keeping general publicity about us to a minimum.

We used the word "general" above, however, in order not to include certain very helpful specific publicity, going to highly selective groups, which we have welcomed. There will be enclosed with this report for instance, if we receive the copies in time -- and if not they will be mailed to each of you separately -- the April, 1960, National Program Letter. The whole front page of this excellent four-page monthly letter put out by Dr. George Benson, Glenn Green, and their associates at Searcy, Arkansas, is given

over to an excellent introduction of its readers to The John Birch Society. And since this letter goes to 48,000 good Americanists, it constitutes a remarkable boost for the Society, at no cost in money and very little cost in "general" publicity, which we greatly appreciate.

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Your Founder read to the COUNCIL briefly from some of the immense amounts of complimentary and highly encouraging mail which we receive. He discussed also briefly -- believe it or not! -- some additional ways in which various members of the COUNCIL may be able and willing to help us as time goes on. And he ended the formal meeting with a very short survey of the continuing and terrifying advance of the Communists into control or domination of various segments or organizations of our national life outside of government.

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As a result of various discussions which arose during the day there is being mailed to each member of the COUNCIL, under separate cover from this report, the following items.

1. A reprint of LOOK AT THE SCORE.
2. A copy of our new brochure of the Society, which will be largely used for answering inquiries received by us as a result of the National Program Letter (referred to above), the favorable comments about us by Dan Smoot, and similar developments which promote inquiries on a sizable scale.
3. The Dilling Bulletin of October, 1959 -- of which, fortunately, we purchased fifty copies when it came out last October, since many members of the COUNCIL expressed a desire to see one. We referred to this bulletin in the "letter to the reader" editorial in the December issue of AMERICAN OPINION, of which a transcript is entered herewith for your convenience.

Dear Reader:

A couple of weeks ago I had lunch with a good Jewish friend of mine who had something bothering him. He thought that the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, of which your editor was Chairman, was heavily anti-Semitic in its composition.

That very same week there appeared the monthly bulletin of one of the best-known "extremists" on the anti-Communist side of the current ideological wars. That bulletin took your editor to pieces, mercilessly, on the grounds that his Committee Against Summit Entanglements consisted of "nothing but Jews and Jew-kissers."

From our daily mail we learn constantly that we are anti-Catholic, but also that we are helping to make the Pope dictator of the United States; that we ought to be hung for our unfairness to Negroes, but also that we should be tarred and feathered for being "nigger lovers"; and that we are on the

wrong side (both wrong sides, in fact) of every schism.

Most of these critics are sincere, and all of them are wrong. It is of vital importance to the Communists to split Americans into all kinds of groups, snarling at each other. And many good patriots unwittingly carry the ball for the Communists in that game, utterly unaware of who dreamed up the plays or who is calling the signals.

We are fighting Communists. Period. Nobody else. In this season of greater good will among men, we still wish to the Communists only justice for their crimes. But to everybody else, of all races, creeds, and colors, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and all the happiness of the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Signed
Robert Welch

You will find specific references to myself on Pages 5, 6, 16, 18, and 19 of the Dilling Bulletin. But actually the whole issue is, to a considerable extent, an attack on me because of my support of Jacques Soustelle in France and Barry Goldwater in this country, both of whom are bêtes noires to Mrs. Dilling and her friends because they both happen to have Jewish blood in their ancestry (though both were born and raised in the Protestant church).

4. A copy of the July-August, 1957 issue of ONE MAN'S OPINION, containing the article on Foreign Aid And Formosa. Several members of the COUNCIL asked for something in print giving some of the ways in which our Foreign Aid Program had helped the Communists. And this article is the best answer to that question -- though not as comprehensive or thorough as we should like -- which we have immediately available.

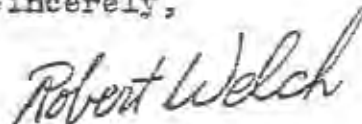
* * *

Your Founder thanked the members of the COUNCIL as well as he knew how, though by no means adequately, for the "special fund" provided out of their own pockets to supply an assistant and thereby make it easier for him to follow instructions of the last COUNCIL meeting and get a vacation. He reported that these instructions had been carried out, so far, only in part. Instead of one "top" assistant, actually three more specific assistants had been hired or -- in the case of Bob Lupton, our new Major Coordinator for the ten Southern states -- obtained for full time services on a volunteer basis. Also, instead of a vacation of any length, I got in two or three days of rest on a trip to Texas, and shall spend three or four days in North Carolina with my mother at Easter time.

These modifications were made almost imperative, however, by the rapid growth of the Society between the two COUNCIL meetings. And I still intend to carry out the instructions, in both particulars, more fully and satisfactorily, just as soon as it is practicable to do so.

There were a number of questions in my notes for the meeting, some of them important, on which I wished to ask the advice of the COUNCIL. But there simply was not time to bring them up. (And I did feel it was more important for me to try to answer the questions which the COUNCIL asked me.) So, except for those which will be out of date, they will be held over until the next meeting. That meeting has been tentatively set for Saturday, June 18, at the Union League Club in Chicago. I was deeply grateful for the large attendance in New York, am hoping that the attendance can be even more nearly complete at the next meeting, and shall be looking forward very much to seeing each of you at that time. In the meantime, my many and earnest thanks once more for all of your help and support, and my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Welch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert Welch

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

September 14, 1960

To All Members Of The COUNCIL:

Each of you has already received a copy of the statement which I made, to the members who were present at the meeting here in Belmont on September 10, at the beginning of that meeting. Also, by first class mail in the same package, a copy of the 1960 Scoreboard Issue of AMERICAN OPINION, to which considerable reference is made in that statement.

Later in the morning I also read to those present the nine-page letter we had written to Dr. Fred Schwarz, which is self-explanatory, and which will give you information, concerning the origin of the recent unfavorable newspaper publicity about us, which will undoubtedly surprise many members of the COUNCIL. A carbon copy or Verifax copy of that letter is enclosed herewith. But you are asked please to consider this letter -- and copy of any reply from Dr. Schwarz we may receive and send you -- in strict confidence.

Also enclosed for each of you -- as the result of a discussion at the meeting -- is a duplicated copy of a letter written some months ago to one of our Chapter Leaders in Texas. This letter has proved very helpful in answering questions raised by some prospective members of the Society concerning the writer's religious views, as indicated in broad outline in the Blue Book. And many members of the COUNCIL expressed a desire to read it.

The writer reported -- in confidence -- that on Saturday, September 10, we had 324 chapters and approximately 5300 members. This represents a gain of 84 chapters and about 1500 members since the last meeting of the COUNCIL on June 18. Now that we are over the "summer doldrums," and if our rate of growth holds as for the winter months from January through May -- we had only 75 chapters and 1500 members at the first meeting of the COUNCIL last January -- we will have 10,000 members by the second anniversary of the founding of the Society, in December. As shown by the recent storm that hit us, we have been building very solidly -- which is all-important. If we can find both the resources and the personnel for organizationally tight and sound expansion, at the rate of doubling our size every three months during the winter season, which experience so far has shown to be entirely practicable, we will have over half a million members by the fall of 1962. And

there is further discussion of both the potential of our growth and its significance in the duplicated statement mailed each of you on Monday.

There was a broad general discussion all day long, and after dinner in the evening; and some emphatic reaffirmations of loyalty to the Society -- and of continued or increasing support of our efforts -- for which I am deeply grateful. And I believe it is a fair statement of the feelings of all of those present that unless The John Birch Society can become strong enough to serve as the major factor and influence in saving our country from enslavement by the Communists, there is no other force on the horizon that shows any possibility of doing so. All around us, everywhere, is only increasing confusion -- as planned by the Communists.

Our responsibility, therefore -- as also pointed out in the statement mailed you -- is staggering. Your Founder will continue to live up to that responsibility to the utmost of his ability, in thought, and word, and deed. And on the basis of that promise we ask for all of the help that each of you can give us in turn, for the achievement of so mighty a purpose.

It was settled by the wishes of those present that the next meeting of the COUNCIL will be at the Harvard Club of New York, on Saturday, December 10. And I shall be looking forward very hopefully to seeing you again, one and all, at that time and place.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

27 01. 4-17
November 16, 1960

To All Members Of The COUNCIL:

This memorandum is to confirm, and remind you, that the next meeting of the COUNCIL will be at the Harvard Club of New York City, starting promptly at nine o'clock in the morning of Saturday, December 10, and lasting through luncheon and dinner until well into the evening. There will be much ground to cover, and a need for much open discussion on many points.

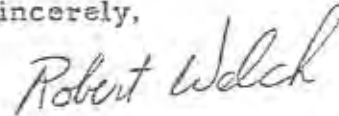
On the agenda for reports by myself and/or such discussions will be:

- (1) A brief review of the growth of the Society in the two years of its existence. (It will be exactly two years old on December 9, the day before our meeting.) And a brief look at probable growth during the immediate future.
- (2) A brief report of the various smears of, and attacks on, the Society during the past few months. Not all of these attacks are known to some members of our COUNCIL, and some of them are not known to any members. We shall seek the COUNCIL'S advice on basic policy, with regard to such attacks in the future.
- (3) A discussion and re-examination of the functions of the COUNCIL as a whole, and of its individual members. A look at the feasibility of having small subcommittees of the COUNCIL to help on various policies and activities.
- (4) Consideration of the desirability of a Sponsoring Committee, or Committee Of Endorsers, under the COUNCIL, solely for the purposes of prestige. Such a committee of several hundred leading citizens, listed by states, would have no active duties, but would be of considerable value to our men in the field in many ways. It would also act somewhat as a shield for the Society against attacks from at least some quarters.
- (5) A quick look at the domestic political situation and at the international scene, followed by a discussion of the part we should try to play in the developments of the next few months and -- so far as we can anticipate the situation -- of the next few years.
- (6) A report on the growth of AMERICAN OPINION, and a discussion of the kind of articles we should run in the magazine, and of the part it should play in our future plans.
- (7) A discussion of the possible use of radio or television, and also of the form of meetings which I personally should hold in the future.

- (8) A review of some of the things that we ought to be doing, and shall be doing as fast as we can acquire the resources and the organization.
- (9) Any matters that individual members of the COUNCIL may wish to discuss, to the fullest extent that time is available.
- (10) Consideration of more frequent sessions of the COUNCIL in the future; and determination of the time and place of our next meeting.

I shall be looking forward very much to seeing each and all of you who can possibly attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Welch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert Welch

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

2-13-61
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

February 9, 1961

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
T. COLMAN ANDREWS
SEBASTIAN BRADEN
LAURENCE E. BUNKER
F. GANDY CHANCE
RALPH E. DAVIS
S. M. DRASCOVICH
WM. J. GREER*
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A. G. HEINSON, JR.*
GRANVILLE F. KNIGHT
FRED C. KOCH*
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CLARENCE MANION*
FRANK E. MARLAND, JR.
W. B. McMILLAN
REYD P. OLIVER
COLA G. PARKER
M. T. PHILES
LOUIS RUTHENBURG
J. NELSON SHEPHERD
JAMES SIMPSON, JR.†
ROBERT W. STODARD*
CHARLES B. STONE, III
PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee

†Deceased

Mr. Verne P. Kaub
American Council of Christian Laymen
Madison 1, Wisconsin

Dear Verne:

Many thanks indeed for your letter of February 3, and I am sorry to have caused you so much effort. For I well know from my own situation just what the pressures are, especially with regard to correspondence.

Your willingness to let me use your name on the Committee Of Endorsers, in view of all of the considerations which you mention, is very generous and deeply appreciated. But I am not going to do so, entirely for just one reason which you mention. And that is that your consent would have to be reluctant -- for perfectly sound reasons. As a matter of fact, Verne, I doubted very much that you would feel able to go on the Committee, and I wrote primarily just because I wanted you to know that you were invited. So I am sorry that, in trying to show my respect and confidence and friendship for yourself, I caused you a lot of unnecessary agitation.

Actually, as you say, we are having no trouble getting quite a "fat" list -- or at least we shall have none, if we can ever get enough time to get out the invitations. So far the acceptances, to those we have sent out, have been running about four to one against the regrets. But we have one high-school girl, who comes in for around two to three hours every afternoon, hammering out some few of these letters of invitation each afternoon, which is entirely too slow a process. And we hope to speed it up soon.

With regard to the paragraphs at the top of Page 2 of your letter, of course I know that we do not see exactly eye to eye on some matters, and for that very reason I am all the more appreciative of the help you have consistently been willing to give me and the Society. As you know, it is my very deep rooted intention to try to work on just as friendly terms as I possibly can with every good patriot in this country who is honestly and truly opposed to the Communist advance and willing to stand up and fight against that advance, despite whatever other characteristics any such person might have with which I would

February 9, 1961

not be in sympathy. (Provided, of course, there is nothing dishonorable in either the character or the actions to be considered.) Which is why I was perfectly willing to keep working with Russell Maguire, and letting him re-print my material -- for which Bill Buckley kept jumping all over me -- even though Maguire certainly had some characteristics (having nothing to do with the Jews or anti-Semitism or any related matter in any respect) of which neither you nor I could possibly approve. And I am very proud of the fact that, where there is unquestionably sound patriotism on hand, as in your case, I have had wonderful cooperation and support from everybody else in the field.

Which makes it almost necessary for me to comment at least briefly on Gerald L. K. Smith. I insisted on remaining on entirely friendly terms with Gerald L. K. Smith, Verne, in our exchanges of correspondence which he kept up and carried on, despite all of the smear attacks and the way his reputation had been smeared by so many attacks. On his insistent request I had even assured him that, in due time and when we were willing to send out a few copies of The Politician again -- which meant whenever the smears against us based on The Politician had receded a little bit into the past -- I would send him a copy. And I thoroughly intended to do so. In fact, as my wife could tell you, his name was on the list to receive one, at one time, in the next small lot she mailed out. But in the meantime a lot of things happened, which I just don't want to take the time, and the several pages that would be involved, to outline here. And to put it bluntly, and confidentially, they caused me to come around at long last to agreeing with some of my very best and most courageous and best informed California friends that Gerald L. K. Smith might not really be on our side. Please note that I am not saying that he isn't on our side; and I am not saying even this much elsewhere, or to anybody else, except to a good friend in an extremely confidential letter like this one, for urgent reasons which make it necessary for me to explain my own action. We shall let Smith go right along his own road, without any slightest attention from us, and with our sincere hope that on the whole he may really be helping the anti-Communist cause, and intending to do so. But I decided that I wanted absolutely nothing to do with him, now or later, for reasons which at least cast doubt in my own mind as to his intentions.

I might add, Verne, that those reasons had very little to do directly with the activities for which Smith has been smeared. I am no coward in this fight, as I hope I have already proved. With regard to the issue involved here, I not only asked you to go on my Committee Of Endorsers, but I asked Merwin Hart to do so (and he has accepted) despite the fact -- and this is in the strictest confidence, between you and myself -- I personally have been jumped on twice, the second time quite emphatically, by the ADL, or at

February 9, 1961

least by one of its representatives, for my association with and support by Merwin Hart. (He was on my COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS, and is a Chapter Leader of The John Birch Society). But Merwin Hart is a man, like yourself, of solid conscience and great honor. And I simply have to tell you that I have very serious doubts as to this being true of Gerald L. K. Smith.

I am very sorry to learn of the break between Billy James Hargis and yourself, because of Smith or his actions. For I think that a careful examination of the record for the past many years will show that Smith has been responsible for many such breaks of friendship and cooperation between good conservatives and leading fighters against Communism.

Thanks for telling me about Mrs. Jones of Cut Bank, Montana and the item she wrote you about marking time on the Earl Warren matter until further notified by our "state Coordinator." It was an annoying development, which we already knew about (but appreciate your calling to our attention, nevertheless), of which the explanation is fairly simple. In the first place, we have a fully-paid Coordinator David Burnham, in Santa Barbara, California, who is by far the hardest man to handle on our whole staff. He is a good man and does a good job, but he just absolutely insists on doing everything his own way, without any regard for authority. And because we are so incredibly crowded, we just gave up quite a while ago and let him have his own head. One of the things he has been doing, because he has personal friends and relatives up in Montana, is beating plane rides with friends of his up to Montana and back, and thus forming some chapters for The John Birch Society while up there. And they are good chapters and we shouldn't complain. So that is part of the background. The "state Coordinator," to whom Mrs. Jones refers, is actually one of our four staff men in the state of California.

The next part of the explanation is that Dr. Granville Knight, a member of our COUNCIL who resides in Santa Barbara -- which, as you know, is national headquarters for the Fund For The Republic, and a terrific hot-bed of other liberals and leftists -- objecting to all of the whispering and smear campaigns going on against the Society in Santa Barbara, wrote up a fairly brief but excellent story of the background, methods, and purposes of The John Birch Society, for the local paper there, which the editor had implied he would publish. But the editor, as Dr. Knight well knew, was a close personal friend of Earl Warren. So Dr. Knight and Dave Burnham did not want anybody to start doing anything about our Movement To Impeach Earl Warren, in Santa Barbara, for at least a few days after our January bulletin was received, and until the article about the Society had appeared in the Santa Barbara paper. Consequently, Dave Burnham sent a memorandum to all of the members in his chapters to hold up on this action until he notified them. And apparently he simply sent the

Mr. Verne P. Kaub

-4-

February 9, 1961

notice to all of the members in chapters he had formed, with out bothering to make an exception in the case of those in Montana.

As it turned out, this action -- of which I would never have approved anyway, and no other Coordinator would have taken the action without getting approval from this office -- was completely wasted. The Santa Barbara paper not only did not publish the article prepared by Dr. Knight, but came out with the most vicious smears against us yet published anywhere in the country, running it in two installments, quoting from the Milwaukee Journal and the Mabley column in the Chicago Daily News and all of the other papers which had attacked us, and themselves attacking all of the local known leaders of the Society as well as the Society itself nationally. But at any rate you have the explanation of why Mrs. Jones had received any such notice -- which I hope has been fully rescinded by now. It's just impossible for us to keep up with all of these things in the field, although we do our best.

Coming now, Verne, to your letter to George Sokolsky, I think it is magnificent. And all the more so because I know that you felt you had to strain the generosity of your disposition to the limit to write him in so friendly a vein as you did. But, as you know, I think all of us simply must keep our eye on the ball, which is stopping the Communist threat and eventually routing and destroying the Communists. And certainly the letter you have written Sokolsky, as well as the way I tried to handle the whole matter in our February bulletin, will do far more good for the cause -- to which you and I both are giving our lives -- than a more virulent and hostile reaction, no matter how much justified. So please accept my earnest thanks for what I consider a superb piece of support, in this connection, for what we are trying to do.

And with that, I had better sign off from this broadcast, and get on with some of the work in front of me. I'll simply send my many thanks again and, as always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert Welch

RW:th

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

January 23, 1961

(Dictated January 20, 1961)

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
 THOMAS J. ANDERSON
 T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
 SPRUTLE BRADEN
 LAURENCE E. BUNKER
 F. GAND CEFANCE
 RALPH E. DAVIS
 S. M. DRASKOVICH
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 ROBERT W. STODDARD*
 CHARLES B. STONE, III
 PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee

†Deceased

Mr. Thomas J. Anderson
 FARM AND RANCH
 318 Murfreesboro Road
 Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Tom:

Thanks a lot for your long and interesting and very kind letter of January 13. Because I have the February issue of AMERICAN OPINION and the February bulletin of the Society both to get out during the next few days (and the whole bulletin still to be written) on top of the other problems indicated by the enclosed memorandum, I am going to postpone trying to answer it in detail until a little later. But even in the meantime, having read it all quite carefully, I shall keep your suggestions very much in mind. I'll take time to answer only your handwritten postscript. The people to whom Maguire sold the Mercury are, according to reports I have received which seem reliable, one of the worst "racist" and "hate" groups in the United States. I am told that they are even more viciously anti-Catholic than they are anti-Jewish. And until we learn much more about them, and unless it is a great deal more favorable than our reports so far, we want nothing to do with them in any way.

I note that in one article in their first issue, which we have now received, they quote from AMERICAN OPINION extensively. But I also note in that issue articles by various writers who, I am sure, are not going to be willing to appear in THE AMERICAN MERCURY under its new editorship. These people have simply used articles which were already on hand, and have run the same masthead which was already being used, without any checking or obtaining permission, by the new management.

As to encyclopedias which are not owned or edited and written by Lefties, I am sorry to say that I do not know of any. Encyclopedias have been used for extensive long-range promoting of "liberals" ideas, ever since the days of the Encyclopedists in France in the eighteenth century. But I don't believe the effort has ever been as extensive, as shameless, or as effective as it is in that whole field today.

Thanks again, Tom, and I'll write more when I can. In the meantime, and as always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Ba

Robert Welch

RW:th

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 73, Massachusetts

January 9, 1961

To My Friends:

We are now receiving about five hundred letters per day (and the quantity is climbing).

These letters come from our Coordinators, and contain organizational problems, from our Chapter Leaders, with suggestions for action by the Society; from our members, dealing with every topic under the sun; from our contributors, with checks which we much appreciate (and need); from members of our COUNCIL, offering and asking advice; from Congressmen and Senators and Admirals and Generals and business tycoons and publishers and authors and public figures of every kind, and from the most important people of all, those with the utmost dedication to The John Birch Society and its purposes.

Most of the five hundred authors of each day's letters would like, and about a hundred of them have a right to expect, a personal reply from myself. And of course it can't be done. (I have a magazine to edit, a monthly bulletin to get out, and a dozen other musts bearing down on me all of the time.) What is more, there come stretches when -- even if I reluctantly let others answer even the most personal letters for me -- the staff can't keep up either. We are in such a period, and -- as our rapid growth continues -- we shall keep hitting such periods from time to time. We do not dare hire additional help until we are sure we can afford it, and you cannot train new help overnight to do our job.

This is intended to be an explanation, therefore, for whatever has happened or may be happening to your correspondence, and a request for your understanding, patience -- and, it may be, your forgiveness. It is not a request for anybody to stop writing us. Contact with our members and friends is the cement holding together the substance out of which the strength of The John Birch Society is built. We want more glass of moral support, bricks of financial support, and stones of support in labor and in effort -- and more cement to bind them all together -- not less. We are looking forward to the time when we shall be getting fifty thousand letters per day, instead of five hundred. But we shall have to remind you from time to time that our growing pains can be acute. This is one of those times.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

FIGURE OF CONTROVERSY

John Birch as Student Was Embattled Figure

Editor's Note: Just who was John Birch, the young man whose name is memorialized in a society pledged to fight communism? In the following dispatch, written for United Press International, a reporter for the Macon News of Macon, Ga., where John Birch's parents still live and where John Birch went to school, looks into Birch's youth. The dispatch deals largely with the Mercer university heresy trials in which John Birch was a prominent figure.

By GEORGE A. DOSS JR.

MACON, Ga. (UPI)—John Morrison Birch, as a ministerial student here 23 years ago, was a holder of extremely controversial views just as the ultraconservative society bearing his name is today.

Birch, then not quite 21, was leader of a secret fellowship group of 13 "fundamentalist" students who sought to purge Mercer university of five faculty members. The students charged the professors with teaching heretical doctrines on the Baptist campus.

The faculty members were cleared at a hearing before members of the board of trustees. Police escorted Birch and his fellow fundamentalists from the campus the night of March 30, 1939, for their own safety. Never Met Welch

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch society in 1958, did not know John Birch in 1939 or at any time prior to his death at the hands of Chinese Communist guerrillas in 1945, 19 days after V-J Day.

If Welch was aware of Birch-inspired charges against the Mercer faculty members and the subsequent hearing, he did not mention it in his book, "The Life of John Birch," published in 1954. He reported only that Birch received his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude in 1939 and went on to the Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., to prepare himself to go to China as a missionary in 1940.

Nonetheless, a similarity exists between the charges by Welch that some Protestant clergymen and such prominent persons as former President Eisenhower and Chief Justice Earl Warren are Communists or their dupes and accusations by Birch's student group that



JOHN M. BIRCH

"all denominational institutions are reeking with heresy." Congress Report

Welch says he first heard of Birch while reading a congressional committee hearing report dealing with his death. He says

Birch was the first uniformed American casualty of World War III, that he was killed by the Communists "at the first opportunity after the war because of the powerful resistance he would have been able to inspire against them."

Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, said in an interview as long ago as 1939 that she believed her son gave

his life in an effort to warn Americans of the danger from Communists, and that his warning was deliberately kept from the public by government censorship.

Mr. and Mrs. Birch, themselves missionaries in India where John was born in 1918 and for two and a half years thereafter, traveled about the country for several years after the war in their efforts to learn the facts about their son's death.

Three former Army intelligence officers who served with Birch or investigated his death have agreed in recent statements that he was killed when he tried to bluff his way out of a difficult situation while on a mission in Communist-held territory. They differ as to whether Birch, a missionary turned OSS captain, died a hero.

Birch was not generally regarded a hero by the Mercer university student body at the time of the heresy trial he inspired. One of the placards displayed on the campus at the time read, "Lynch Saint Birch."

One member of the Birch "fundamentalist" group was rescued from a crowd of students, including football players, by Dr. Josiah Crudup, one of the faculty members the Birch group accused and now president of Brenau college, Gainesville, Ga. The car in which they left the campus was stoned. Another associate of Birch was escorted to police headquarters for his safety and appealed for protection of his home during the night.

Mercer Attack
According to Dr. Spright Dowell, Mercer president emeritus who was head of the institution at the time, the heresy attack was aimed primarily at Dr. John D. Freeman. Freeman, the 75-year-old head of the Christianity department, was,

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APR 22 1961
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In the words of the committee which investigated the charges, a man who "for 50 years... has been a Baptist preacher and teacher, a man greatly beloved, a leader among the Baptists of the world and one who through the years has been regarded as a conservative in his theology."

Dr. Dowell noted in his book, "A History of Mercer university," published in 1938, that only three of the complaining students were in classes taught by Dr. Freeman. "Twenty of their classmates resented the attack and voluntarily stated... that Dr. Freeman's teaching was 'doctrinally sound, spiritually sane and genuinely Christian.'" Doctor Resigned

Dr. Freeman resigned shortly after the heresy trials and died in 1943.

Birch and his 12 associates, a fundamentalist minority among approximately 60 ministerial students charged the professors with saying, among other things, "There were no such persons as Adam and Eve"; "You do not have to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved"; "The Bible contradicts itself"; "It was not necessary for Christ to die to free man from sin," and "The Bible was not divinely inspired."

The Mercer student newspaper urged editorially the dismissal of the accusing students. A petition advocating expulsion was circulated. George Burt, now editor of the Louisville, Ky., Times, said in an editorial in the Macon News, "... It is the attitude of refusal to open their minds to the very things they are attending school to learn that makes the case of the 13 seem so hopeless, so disgraceful and so tragic. ... They have decided that they know all there is to know about it, and that therefore anything they don't know about is heresy."

Was Satisfied

Birch apparently was satisfied with his campaign against the faculty members. He listed on an alumni form which he filled at Mercer after graduation as one of his accomplishments as a student his campaign against "modern" teachings by members of the faculty.

A former classmate had this

to say of Birch: "He and I were good friends, but I never agreed with him. He was brilliant, but very radical in his thinking."

"I remember him as a very earnest and intense young man, not entirely without a sense of humor, but a very serious type," says Dr. Otis D. Knight, dean of graduate studies and professor of psychology at Mercer. Dr. Knight is one of the few remaining faculty members who was teaching at Mercer when Birch was a student there.

Few Clothes

His classmate and friend said Birch was poor and had few clothes, as did he, but that Birch thought little or nothing about his personal appearance.

Before he left Mercer, Birch became a follower of Dr. J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, according to his friend. Welch noted in his book that Birch had been accepted by Norris' World Fundamental Baptist Missionary fellowship to go to China but the biography never mentioned Norris. Norris had just founded the seminary which Birch attended in Fort Worth and, according to Welch, a building there was

later named for Birch.

Early in World War II Birch tried to join the Army as a chaplain but he may have had difficulty because the seminary he attended was not fully recognized. His knowledge of the Chinese language and his associations with the people in Central China through his missionary work enabled him to aid Gen. James H. Doolittle and his fliers to escape after their raid on Japan and after this he soon was commissioned in the Army. He won the Legion of Merit and an Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as Chinese decorations.

Agrees with Society

Mrs. Birch, who talks freely about her late son and says she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with the purposes of the John Birch Society, is zealous about local activities of the group. She says she and Mr. Birch were made "life members of the home chapter" by Welch soon after the Birch society was founded and she said they are proud for it to bear their son's name.

"Of course, a mother appreciates the qualities of her son, who was martyred for his coun-

try," Mrs. Birch said in praising Welch's biography of her son. "He has gotten the spirit of what John stood for and what he was and we do appreciate it."

Mrs. Birch, a large, buxom woman, and her husband, slender and slightly bent, are familiar figures at public meetings in Macon where they frequently go to protest. Ardent prohibitionists, they have opposed various alcoholic beverage license applications before Bibb county commissioners.

They won a running dispute with the county authorities through persistent effort several years ago over title to an abandoned county road through their property after a new highway was opened.

Opposed Highway

At a public hearing on the interstate highway route through Macon, Mrs. Birch spoke in opposition. And in 1960 she and

her husband attended a series of meetings to oppose a merger of Macon and Bibb county governments, which they said was inspired by the Communists and which was defeated. They questioned candidates about their favorite causes at a series of meetings in various parts of the county before the 1960 Democratic primary.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Birch are frequent writers of letters to local editors. Mr. Birch recently wrote one to the Macon Telegraph asking, "Why do you throw your weight on the side of the Communists and the National Council of Churches" by continuing to "refer to the documented film 'Operation Abolition' as controversial." The editor noted that Birch's logic "would be amusing if it were not symptomatic of an unfair and dangerous technique" and said he went on in the letter "to establish that the film is, indeed, controversial" by citing denunciation of it by the National Council of Churches.

Senator Asks Probe Of Birch Group Aims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.) wants a Senate probe of whether the John Birch Society is resorting to "harassment, intimidation and economic blackmail" against its critics.

But Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.) says he doesn't think the Senate internal security subcommittee should furnish "a publicity forum for those who desire to be investigated and wish to publicize their aims and purposes."

Cotton, a subcommittee member, told a reporter he doubted the internal security unit had jurisdiction and saw no reason at this time for any investigation of the militantly conservative organization.

The subcommittee is studying whether it has jurisdiction to probe the society founded by Robert Welch, retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer. Welch has requested an investigation.

JUNE 7, 1961

MEMORANDUM RE ROBERT WELCH AND MY RESIGNATION AS A COORDINATOR
OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

This memorandum was prepared in response to requests of many members of The John Birch Society for information and comment regarding my resignation as a coordinator for the Society.

Even the State Department in the process of releasing certain selected papers usually presents correspondence received as well as correspondence issued. But Robert Welch, following my resignation, chose not to give members of the Society a selection of letters that would fairly indicate both sides of the issue. Instead, he printed and distributed two communications of his own (the first of which, 14 pages in length, he himself, near its close, termed a "diatribe") to the exclusion of my views except as misrepresented by him.

One of Mr. Welch's principal themes in attacking me is that "certainly nothing about our John Birch Society meets with your approval, or even has, since the day you first came into it." Such an assertion is utterly ridiculous. Anybody who attended chapter meetings when I was present as coordinator or who heard me on radio or TV or read published interviews in the press knows for himself that I was always forthright and vigorous in support of the Society's objectives. A Congressman inserted one of my broadcasts in the Congressional Record in support of his defense of the Society. And at the Independent American Forum in Chicago in April I was asked to open the program with remarks in appreciation of the Society, which I did, and was applauded frequently.

The fact that the number of chapters in my area tripled during the period I was coordinator is not without significance in this relation.

But Mr. Welch's allegation is also refuted by letters from his own office which he did not choose to reproduce. On March 3 I had written him saying, "My hearty congratulations on the March Bulletin, which I have just finished reading. Not even I, whom you once thought to be too sharp a critic, would change a word of it -- nor could any of the rest of us have produced anything half so inspiring." In response to this, a member of his staff replied on March 24 as follows:

"Mr. Welch has received your very nice letter of the 6th of March in regard to the March Bulletin. He has asked me to express his sincere thanks to you for your very kind comments and for taking the time and trouble to write him of your approval. He offers his apology for not writing you personally but I believe you, probably more than most people, realize the terrific time pressure he is working under. With his thanks for your kindness he has asked me to send his very best wishes and kindest regards."

In a letter written a day prior to the one just quoted, another staff member wrote me: "We are glad to have the copy of your speech of March 12, which Mr. Welch has described as 'excellent.' And those in this office who have read it have also applauded loudly and long. It should have already been a great help in the work we are trying to do, and it is immensely appreciated."

And in a letter dated March 21, to "Dear Bryton" and signed "Bob", we find the following: "A copy of the transcript of your broadcast of Sunday, March 19, has just come to my desk. And I want to thank you for so excellent a job. We shall certainly quote from this broadcast ... in our April bulletin."

So much for the charge that I saw nothing good in the Society. If I were to take the time and space to do so, I could prove virtually every other charge in his letters equally false.

Mr. Welch hurls back to several suggestions which I sent him, with all good will, shortly after I joined the Society and before I was designated a coordinator. I will not take space here to recite all of those suggestions (although I would be proud to show the file to anybody who might wish to go into the matter further), but I will quote one of them to indicate their general tone and nature, as follows:

7. In my commentary over a radio network yesterday (October 9, 1960), I welcomed the opportunity to make passing reference to American Opinion and its editor and to quote briefly from the last issue. I do make this suggestion to you, however: avoid a tendency toward over-statement of your case. Extraneous language may delight hard-boiled patriots but it is not needed to convince the informed, and the average plain American whom we need to reach actually recoils from it. You might try the experiment of putting yourself in the place, for a moment, of some not-too-well-informed individual. Sit back and re-read, as though that individual's eyes, some of the material sent out by the Society lately. Then ask yourself if you would not have been more effective if you had been a little extreme in your statements. For example, within the space of less than two paragraphs on page 29 of the September Bulletin, one finds the following terms oft repeated elsewhere: 'filthy...betrayal...disastrous...wreckless...vile...aggression...helpless...catastrophe...' And on page 17 of the October Bulletin are references to Eisenhower and the role of the United States 'as the most important Soviet satellite' which are not well calculated to reflect sober judgment and attract new members."

You might never guess it behind the smoke-screen of Mr. Welch's distirbce of November 2, but what I had protested a few days before was a letter from his top lieutenant--the same guy who signed the recent gag-rule ---to the effect that every member must be pressed to carry out every item on the monthly agenda, with no allowance made for individual differences of opinion. And the young regional coordinators had followed through by applying the term "Laziness" to members who didn't want to support every item on the Welch agenda. I had retorted sharply: if don't want you or anybody else ever to try to tell me what I must think, say or do contrary to the right as I see it. Every other American is entitled to take the same position."

In his letter of November 2, Mr. Welch dwells on the Panama Canal issue. Having myself been for a number of years the chief of the treaty staff in the State Department and having been one of the three officials who opposed Alger Hiss face to face in the inner councils of the government when Hiss attempted to turn control of the Canal Zone over to the United Nations, I can probably speak with as much authority on the subject as can the former candy manufacturer I fought, and not in vain, to retain our full treaty rights in the Zone, but I would not be so rash as to assert that we had full sovereignty in the area, for as never did. For Mr. Welch to have attempted to have a special session of Congress called in the midst of the national election, to prove otherwise, was clearly an ill-considered move.

Not only did Mr. Welch omit from his published compilation my letters of appreciation such as those from which I quoted above, but he also ducked the real issues in all this by not printing (a) the letter of the Society's staff director of field activities to the effect that a coordinator like myself must not make a statement "of any kind" and (b) the letter of the regional

coordinator for my area telling me that I must not send suggestions to the home office, that I must not talk matters over with friends some of whom were chapter leaders, and that I must not disagree with Mr. Welch. What kind of a Society would it be in a year's time if such requirements were followed generally? Yet nowhere in his last letter does Mr. Welch repudiate these dictatorial and repressive trends in the administration of the Society. Does he seek simply to obscure his rule under an excess of verbiage?

In both letters which Mr. Welch reproduces he paints a picture of me as being "cordially disliked by every single soul in the organization with whom you had come in contact." In the record, however, we find the following in a letter of April 5 from the head of the research department in the home office:

"...in haste, but in all sincerity --congratulations on the splendid job you are doing there --every member in the District and Virginian areas is singing your praises."

For myself in relation to this last, I will only say that I thoroughly enjoyed working with members of the Society in my area, and I will miss seeing them regularly in the future. It was a labor of love, often keeping me on the go 15 to 18 hours a day. I was, to be sure, paid a salary, but it was little more than a nominal one, because the expense allowance did not adequately reimburse me for actual and necessary outlay, with the result that I was often money out of pocket at the end of the month.

Mr. Welch is hardly the one to accuse anyone else of excessive egotism, yet he implies it of me. I admit to some firsthand knowledge of the problems which confront the nation, beginning with experience with the likes of Alger Hiss, back in the days when our friend Welch was busy in the candy business, and I cooperated with patriotic groups long before The John Birch Society came along. My designation as a coordinator came as a result of no initiative on my part, however; and as for my wanting to be a "national spokesman for the Society", as Mr. Welch alleges, that is pure poppy-cock --except that Mr. Welch himself did propose something of the kind to me on the telephone on April 6. For radio and TV, I have turned down more invitations than I have accepted. That is not my field. I got into it as much as I did during the period of attacks on the Society because somebody needed to speak up; Balaban had failed miserably. Mr. Welch and certain of his subordinates even tried to scuttle the TV debate ("Open End") about the Society, but Congressman John Rousselot and Tom Anderson (the professor invited the latter at my suggestion) ably presented the Society's case.

When Mr. Welch appeared recently on "Meet the Press", one realized the extent to which lack of confidence in his judgment, as displayed in "The Politician", is a barrier to what would otherwise be rapid growth for the Society. His was a lame excuse that he had made the extreme statements in that manuscript just to be provocative. Shocking to many conservatives was his advocacy of an extended honeymoon for the Kennedy Administration, instead of a ringing call to action to reverse the disastrous drift evident in Cuba and Laos. Several individuals commented that his TV presentation was contentious, lacking in inspirational quality. There are many who feel that if the Society is to realize its potential, Mr. Welch should step aside and let a new and younger leader --of the type of Dan Scoot, John Rousselot, Barry Goldwater -- be brought in to rally Americans adequately to the fight for less government and more individual responsibility.

I myself joined the Society last year in high hopes, and I still believe in its stated objectives, for reasons which I have repeatedly given publicly. But dictatorial developments since early April, trends of which the average member may not have been aware but of which I learned as a coordinator, have destroyed much of my confidence in Robert Welch. Perhaps I should have been prepared for something of the kind after reading the wild-swinging "diatribe" of November 2, but at the time I figured that the Founder was entitled to the benefit of the doubt. After I read that letter in his office, I insisted that the whole matter be regarded as water over the dam and that we get on with the business ahead. He agreed, albeit reluctantly, not to press the argument, and I, in turn, did not write him another suggestion for months. Of late, however, his inability to deal with the press, his retreat in the face of public attack, his neglect of the interests of the Society in the vital Washington area (under the remote direction of an inexperienced young man out in Tennessee), his repressive administrative methods, and his wild statements and violent misrepresentations --even of a co-worker --have been most disillusioning.

Why did I resign without much delay as soon as the denial of the right to speak up in private as well as in public became clear? Let me quote something written by Mr. Welch recently in another connection which well applies here: "It is with regard to...little surrenders...that we must increasingly stand firm, and act with the courage of conviction...The courage to face an enemy in war is common. But the courage to resist the erosion of 'independence...is far more rare. Especially when it is always possible to say: 'Well, it isn't worth fighting on this small issue. But tomorrow, next time, when the issue is clearer to my neighbors and friends, then I'll stand up and resist the measures that lead to tyranny.' And procrastination and personal appeasement become a habit..."

I kept my resignation quiet at first, but word got around, with the result that I was besieged with inquiries, with so many different interpretations placed on my decision that I was obliged to make formal announcement. In view of my numerous public utterances in support of the Society, it was only proper that I revise the impression given and warn against undesirable new trends.

In 1953, when it was clear within the Government service that the mess in the State Department was not to be cleared up, I protested officially. In 1955, when it was clear that significant papers in the betrayal of U.S. interests abroad were to be suppressed, I again protested officially. In both instances my protests were vigorously denounced, and I was told that I should have remained silent. In the present instance, this time as a "hired hand" in The John Birch Society, I have again spoken out against wrong trends.

I realize that few will thank me for speaking candidly; the faithful, unconsciously imitating elements in Big Government, will say that I should have kept the matter quiet. Members will go on believing what the urgency of the national situation makes them think they should believe. And some one in Belmont will probably send me another scurrilous letter such as one of the "busy" underlings there did last week. My one justification is that, as in the past, I did my duty as I saw it. And I fear that time, unfortunately, will again confirm my observations regarding the administration of The John Birch Society as it did those earlier regarding the State Department.

June 7, 1961
5814 Hanover Avenue
Springfield, Virginia

Bryton Barron
Bryton Barron